



# Surfside Town Gazette

September 2009



Mayor  
Charles  
Burkett

## TOWN COMMISSION REQUESTS PUBLIC INPUT ON BUDGET

Unemployment has reached double digits in Florida. Property values have decreased. The number of foreclosed properties is increasing. Utility charges continue to escalate. **All municipalities** are facing an economic tsunami and unfortunately Surfside is not immune from these challenging times. The Town Commission has tentatively adopted a millage rate of 4.7332, which represents a 14.29% overall reduction in property taxes for Surfside, compared to the current year.

**To balance the Town budget, service cuts are anticipated. These include, but are not limited to:**

- Privatization of the Building Department
- Elimination of some Life Safety (Police) Positions and Operating Personnel
- Elimination of the Surfside Library
- Elimination of full-time Lifeguards; possible weekend lifeguard service only
- Elimination of Beach Club staff; weekend service may be possible
- Elimination of Miami Shores Pool Agreement

*(continued on page 2)*

## **■ SURFSIDE POST OFFICE SLATED TO CLOSE. DETAILS PAGE 2. ■**

**The Budget Hearings  
are scheduled for:**  
**FIRST PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**  
Tues. Sept. 8 at 5:01 pm  
*(in Commission Chambers)*  
**FINAL PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**  
Tues. Sept. 22 at 5:01 pm  
*(in Commission Chambers)*

**PARKING PERMITS  
EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.**  
Residents must re-register  
their vehicles at Town Hall to obtain new,  
valid parking permits.  
*See page 2 for details.*

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## A CITIZENS' ADVISORY: SURFSIDE POST OFFICE SCHEDULED FOR CLOSING

The United States Postal Service has scheduled the closing of the Surfside Post Office, located at 250 95th Street, for May 2010. The branch has served the residents and tourists of the tri-cities (Surf-Bal-Bay) for decades. On August 11th, the Surfside Town Commission passed a Resolution introduced by Commissioner Calderon that requested the Postmaster General, John E. Potter to recognize the huge impact such a closure would have and encouraged the United States Postal Service to do whatever is necessary to ensure that the Surfside Post Office remains open.

There is a grass roots campaign that has already begun expressing objection to the closure. Comments via email & phone are being directed to:

• Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen: (305) 668-2285 or [www.ros-lehtinen.house.gov](http://www.ros-lehtinen.house.gov) (click on Contact me, click on "write your representative" & it will create an email)

• Senator Mel Martinez: (305) 444-8332 or [www.martinez.senate.gov](http://www.martinez.senate.gov) (Select Email me and the site will produce an email)

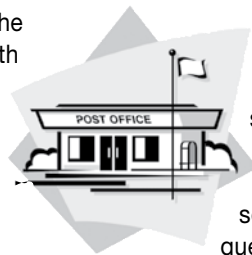
• Senator Bill Nelson: (305) 536-5999 [www.billnelson.senate.gov](http://www.billnelson.senate.gov) (Click on contact Bill, show details, ask your question, webmail)

• Postmaster General, John E. Potter (202) 268-2550 [john.e.potter@usps.gov](mailto:john.e.potter@usps.gov) with a copy to:

• Manager, Post Office Operations: James Brown (954) 436-4406 [james1.e.brown@usps.gov](mailto:james1.e.brown@usps.gov)

• USPS Officer in Charge, Raymond Oberle (305) 531-9359 [raymond.j.oberle@usps.gov](mailto:raymond.j.oberle@usps.gov)

• Surfside Branch Coordinator: Lorraine Jimenez (305) 865-5475



### BUDGET (continued from page 1)

During recent budget workshops the elected officials indicated that final decisions have not yet been made on the 2009 - 2010 budget. The Town Commission has asked residents to contact them (see email addresses below) regarding what services the public wants to keep, if the public wants to pay to keep them, and what services the public wants to cut.

**Mayor Charles Burkett**

[mayor@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:mayor@townofsurfsidefl.gov)

**Vice Mayor Marc Imberman**

[mimberman@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:mimberman@townofsurfsidefl.gov)

**Commissioner Steve Levine**

[slevine@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:slevine@townofsurfsidefl.gov)

**Commissioner Howard Weinberg**

[hweinberg@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:hweinberg@townofsurfsidefl.gov)

**Commissioner Elizabeth Calderon**

[ecalderon@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:ecalderon@townofsurfsidefl.gov)

## RESIDENT METERED PARKING

### PERMITS EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

The current yellow parking permits expire September 30, 2009. Residents are required to obtain a new, VALID parking permit by RE-REGISTERING their vehicle at Town Hall between 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. **Permits are available Monday, August 31, 2009. ONLY TWO PERMITS PER HOUSEHOLD WILL BE ISSUED.**

Proof of acceptable residency examples include, but are not limited to: A current driver's license with a Surfside address • Water bill

• Property tax bill • Rental or lease agreement.



**To re-register vehicles and obtain a valid permit  
Surfsiders are required to bring to Town Hall  
an acceptable proof of residency  
& the vehicle license plate number**

### THE PERMIT:

- Is not valid at Harding Ave. meters (9400 & 9500 blocks)
  - Cannot be used for all day or overnight parking
- Is non-transferable • Is limited to 4 hours in any location

## PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**Please call (305) 866-3635 for registration information about the following programs:**

**Youth:** Surfs Up in Surfside, Pre-School Ballet (Age 3-5), Ballet (Age 6-10), Gymnastics, Acrobatics & Tumbling, Hip Hop Jazz Dance, Kidokinetics (Age 3-5) (see below), Arts & Crafts (Age 3-5), and Soccer.

**Adult:** Beach Boot Camp, Zumba, Aerobics, Yoga and Pilates.

**Senior:** Senior Social Time and Senior Yoga.

### Notice of time change for Kidokinetics (Tots: Age 2-4):

The Tuesday morning Tot  
Class will now be held from  
9:15 am - 10:00 am

**THE MIAMI SHORES  
AQUATIC CENTER**  
will be  
**CLOSED** on  
September 21st  
for superchlorination



### UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS



#### Senior Trip to the Hard Rock Casino

September 10, 2009

#### Surfside Marlins Night (vs. Mets)

September 26, 2009



#### Halloween Spooktacular

October 31, 2009

# SURFSIDE COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

**At the Commission meeting held on August 11, 2009 the following action was taken:**

- Adopted “Nuisance Abatement” Ordinance on second reading which gives authority to code enforcement when action needs to be taken quickly for health, safety and welfare purposes. **Vote: Unanimous**

- Adopted Flood Insurance Rate Maps Ordinance as required by FEMA. **Vote: Unanimous**

- Introduced on first reading a “Boat Storage” Ordinance, proposed by the Planning and Zoning Board, to permit boats to be stored in the front yard in the residential districts, provided that driveways are unobstructed, right of way clearance is maintained for the abutting homeowner, and requires the boat owner to be the resident of the home. **Vote: All in favor**

- Introduced on first reading a “No Negotiations” Ordinance to eliminate a section of the Town Code regarding code enforcement negotiations with Town Commission members. **Vote: 3-2** (Vice Mayor Imberman & Mayor Burkett opposed)

- Introduced on first reading an Ordinance pertaining to vacant storefronts which outlines options for acceptable window dressing. **Vote: All in favor.**

- Introduced on first reading an Ordinance amending the Town Code regarding “Required Roofing Materials”. **Vote: All in favor**

- Introduced on first reading an Expense Reimbursement Ordinance and sets guidelines for documentation necessary for reimbursement. **Vote: 4-1** (Commissioner Calderon opposed)

- Adopted a resolution expressing serious concern at the possible closing of the Surfside Branch of the US Post Office. **Vote: All in favor**

## **In other matters:**

- Calvin Giordano & Associates (CGA) asked for Commission direction regarding future elements of the Community Center building & pool structure. Drawings will be presented at the September 8th Commission Meeting.

- A Pension Plan Overview was given by Robert Klausner of Klausner & Kaufman.

- A Traffic Study report was presented by CGA Traffic Engineer, James Spinks.

- The Town Manager’s contract & job performance will be reviewed at the September 8th Commission Meeting.

- Town Manager, Gary L. Word provided a Governmental Fund Balance (Reserves) report.

- There was discussion about proposed stamped, asphalt crosswalk colors, to be reviewed again at the Commission Meeting on September 8th.

- The Town Clerk, Debra Eastman reported on committee vacancies.

- A discussion was held regarding unpaid utility fees & taxes owed.

## **Are you a South Florida Licensed Architect willing to serve the Town of Surfside?**

The Town Commission is currently seeking a licensed South Florida ARCHITECT, willing to serve on the Design Review Board.

*For further information, please contact:*

Town Clerk, Debra Eastman

phone: (305) 861-4863

email: [deastman@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:deastman@townofsurfsidefl.gov)

## **TOWN OF SURFSIDE PROJECTS: A PROGRESS REPORT**

**Community Center:** Conceptual drawings for a community aquatics facility design, incorporating supporting amenities and allowing for the expansion of a future complex are anticipated to be presented at the September 8th Commission Meeting.

**Beach and Beach Walk:** Miami-Dade County has begun the process of removing the snow/sand fence on top of the dune. It is no longer needed due to the fact that the sea grapes, sea oats and other native beach vegetation have been well established and thus replace the need for the fence to capture blowing sand. In the place of the fence, a rope and stake barrier is being erected to protect the native plants. The Beach Walk and hard pack will continue to be monitored for condition.

**Building Code Services:** ISO, the entity charged with administration of the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule, informed the Town that Surfside has been re-classified to Class 3 for both 1 & 2 family residential property and commercial property. The Town had previously been downgraded to a Class 5 in both categories. The Building Official addressed the downgraded items and obtained the Class 3 designation based upon the improved approach to enforcing the community’s building codes. This is a significant improvement and upgrade for the Town.



# SURFSIDE LIBRARY

Storytime will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.  
Please knock on the door as the library is closed at this time.

## For your reading pleasure...

### ADULT

- ***Gone Tomorrow*** by Lee Child
- ***Shanghai Girls*** by Lisa See
- ***Angels Game*** by Carlos Ruiz Zafon
- ***The Accidental Billionaires*** by Ben Mezrich  
(Facebook exposé)



### DVD's

- ***Barney: Sharing Is Caring***
- ***Zorro: Generation Z*** (Volume 2)
- ***Fast and Furious***
- ***Defiance***



### CHILDREN'S

- ***Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules***  
by Jeff Kinney
- ***The Hermit Crab*** by Carter Goodrich
- ***Road to Revolution! (The Cartoon Chronicles of America)*** by Stan Mack & Susan Champlin



The Library will be closed  
for Labor Day on Monday,  
September 7, 2009.

## PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

- Energy conservation measures which were implemented in Town Hall earlier in the year have resulted in a 15%-18% reduction in monthly electric bills.



- The energy conservation program is being expanded in the Public Works shop and in the exterior lighting for Town Hall. The 250 watt bulbs within the shop have been replaced with 65W fixtures (a 75% reduction). This requires a modification in the voltage feed into the fixture; however the new bulbs not only will result in significant savings, but they last *nearly 4 times as long* as the old type. Light bulbs are being replaced in the exterior parking area east of Town Hall. The new bulbs will consume 85 watts versus the 400W used by the prior bulbs (79% reduction).

- The fence in the parking lot across from Town Hall has been painted.



- The Public Works Department has established a database to record, monitor and follow through on FDOT roadway and sidewalk maintenance deficiencies. This system will significantly improve the Town's effectiveness

in requesting and achieving completion of various repairs along the Collins and Harding Avenue corridors and 96th Street, thereby improving the safety and aesthetics of the Town's main thoroughfares and pedestrian walkways. To report problem areas on the local portion of the State roadways and walkways, please call the Surfside Public Works Department at (305) 861-4863.



Residents are reminded to please keep garbage cans, in your side yard, for pick-up. Help keep Surfside properties neat in appearance.

### The RECYCLING days this month

**will be Wednesday, Sept. 9 & 23.**

The wheeled, recycling container is only to be used for recyclable materials (e.g. glass, plastics, cardboard: flattened packing, cereal or gift boxes or corrugated cardboard, paper: newspapers, magazines, catalogs, telephone books, printer/copier paper, and metals: aluminum & steel food /beverage containers). **Do not use it for garbage or trash.**



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## POLICE EXPLORERS



Congratulations to Surfside Police Explorers, **Avraham Braunstein** (left) and **Bobby Gabriel** (right), who recently participated in the Broward County Police Explorer Competition and placed 2nd in the Bomb Threat scenario!

## OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

Due to the perseverance and teamwork of **Officers Les Ruiz and Woody Brooks**, they captured two burglary felons and recovered property that had been stolen from a local business. For their effort, both officers were recognized with the Officer of the Month award.



(L-R) Assistant Police Chief John Di Censo, Police Chief Dave Allen, Officer Lesmes Ruiz, Mr. Les Ruiz, Officer Woody Brooks, & Mayor Charles Burkett

### SURFSIDE PD wants to "NAB" you!

The Surfside Police Department is launching a new communication tool, known as Neighborhood Advisory Bulletin or NAB. The intent is to advise residents, via email, of community notices or special events. Types of items to be disseminated may include, but are not limited to, an alert regarding a rash of bike thefts or burglaries, notices of road closures and crime prevention programs, Citizens Police Academy sessions and hurricane information.



Any resident wishing to be added to the NAB email list may contact Detective Sergeant Loxley Arch at:  
[larch@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:larch@townofsurfsidefl.gov) or (305) 861-4862 ext. 214

### HOW MUCH FORCE IS TOO MUCH FORCE?



**Why are the bad guys better armed than the good guys?  
Does racial profiling combat terrorism?**

To discuss these & other pertinent, provocative issues in law enforcement Surfside residents are invited to



### Register now for the 6th Session of the Citizens Police Academy

Classes are every Thursday, from September 10 - November 19, 2009, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm in Town Hall. This 11 week course will make you think and laugh (a lot!). It will help you understand the kind of training required and the skill level demanded of police personnel.

For details, contact: **Detective Frank Colonna**  
at (305) 861-4862 • [fcollonna@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:fcollonna@townofsurfsidefl.gov)



**Candlelight Vigil  
for the Victims of  
September 11  
Featuring the:  
Surfside Honor Guard**

**Guest Speaker:**  
Bay Harbor Islands  
Town Manager,  
Ronald J. Wasson  
Former Inspector,  
Commanding Officer  
of the  
New York City Police  
Department Emergency  
Service Unit

Thurs., Sept. 10, 2009  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
9293 Harding Avenue

For further Information  
contact Crime Prevention  
Specialist,  
Wanda Flores at:  
(305) 861-4862 ext. 283

[wflores@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:wflores@townofsurfsidefl.gov)

# SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, AT 7:00 PM

Beautification Committee ..... 2nd Monday of the Month at 7:15 pm (09/14/09)  
Education Committee ..... 1st Thursday of the Month at 8:00 pm (09/03/09)  
Parks & Rec. Committee ..... 3rd Thursday of the Month at 7:00 pm (09/17/09)  
Planning & Zoning Board ..... Last Thursday of the Month at 7:00 pm (09/24/09)  
75th Anniversary Committee ..... 1st Wednesday of the Month at 6:00 pm (09/02/09)  
Tourist Bureau ..... Meeting is RE-SCHEDULED to Tues. Sept. 1 at 6:00 pm

## Labor Day Holiday: Monday, September 7

Town Hall & the Surfside Library will be CLOSED  
The Beach Club & Lifeguard Stand will be staffed until 5:00 pm  
The Tennis Center will be open for general play

(There will not be any regularly scheduled programming for the Recreation Dept. or Tennis Center)

**First Public Budget Hearing ..... Tues., Sept. 8 at 5:01 pm (in Commission Chambers)**  
**Final Public Budget Hearing..... Tues., Sept. 22 at 5:01 pm (in Commission Chambers)**

## UPCOMING:

Halloween Spooktacular.....October 31, 2009  
Charter Review Committee.....November 2, 2009

Please note that all times & dates listed, except Town Commission meetings, are tentative and subject to change.  
To verify the information, contact Town Hall at (306) 861-4863, visit the Website [www.townofsurfsidefl.gov](http://www.townofsurfsidefl.gov) or tune in to channel 77.



30%  
TOTAL RECOVERED FIBER  
ALL POST-CONSUMER FIBER

100% of the electricity used to manufacture LOE Dull Text 100lb/148gsm is from Sappi generated renewable energy sources. LOE contains fiber from well-managed, independently certified forests and contains 30% post consumer recycled fiber.

### TOWN COMMISSION

Charles W. Burkett ..... Mayor  
Marc Imberman ..... Vice Mayor  
Howard S. Weinberg ... Commissioner  
Steven Levine ..... Commissioner  
Elizabeth Calderon ..... Commissioner

### TOWN E-MAIL

[deastman@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:deastman@townofsurfsidefl.gov)

### TOWN OFFICIALS

Gary L. Word ..... Town Manager  
Debra E. Eastman ..... Town Clerk  
Lynn M. Dannheisser .. Town Attorney  
David E. Allen ..... Police Chief

### TOWN COMMISSION/MANAGER E-MAILS

[mayor@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:mayor@townofsurfsidefl.gov)  
[hweinberg@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:hweinberg@townofsurfsidefl.gov)  
[mimberman@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:mimberman@townofsurfsidefl.gov)  
[slevine@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:slevine@townofsurfsidefl.gov)  
[ecalderon@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:ecalderon@townofsurfsidefl.gov)  
[gword@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:gword@townofsurfsidefl.gov)

### BUSINESS NUMBERS

Town Hall ..... (305) 861-4863  
Community Center ..... (305) 866-3635  
Tennis Courts ..... (305) 866-5176  
Tourist Bureau ..... (305) 864-0722  
Library ..... (305) 865-2409  
Surfside Police Department.. (305) 861-4862

### EMERGENCY ONLY

Fire/Police..... (305) 861-1115  
All Other:..... (305) 861-4862

*Town of Surfside*  
9293 Harding Avenue  
Surfside, Florida 33154  
[www.townofsurfsidefl.gov](http://www.townofsurfsidefl.gov)

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MIAMI, FL  
Permit No. 457

